

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action, Claims 1, 8 and 9 are amended. Claims 1-9 remain in the Application. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,260,990 issued to Dejacó ("Dejacó") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,208,958 issued to Cho ("Cho").

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the relied upon references must teach or suggest every limitation of the claim such that the invention as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one skilled in the art. Claim 1 is amended to recite the elements of:

"wherein the formant bandwidth converting means expands the bandwidth of the formant parameters and generates the bandwidth-corrected formant parameters when the bandwidth of the input CELP format is narrower than that of the output CELP format, and the formant bandwidth converting means compresses the bandwidth of the formant parameters and generates the bandwidth-corrected formant parameters when the bandwidth of the input CELP format is wider than that of the output CELP format..." (emphasis added).

Applicants submit that Dejacó in view of Cho does not teach or suggest the elements.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner has withdrawn the prior grounds of rejection based on Moni, and substitutes the newly cited reference Cho for Moni. Cho discloses a formant bandwidth extension unit for **extending** a formant bandwidth (col. 1, lines 61-62). However, Cho does not disclose **compressing** the bandwidth of the formant parameters. There is no indication in Cho that the bandwidth of the formant parameters should be compressed under any given condition.

Dejacó does not cure the deficiency of Cho. Dejacó does not disclose compressing the bandwidth of the formant parameters. Further, the format bandwidth **extension** unit of Cho does not provide any motivation for **compressing** the bandwidth of formant parameters. The Examiner indicates that the motivation to combine Cho with Dejacó is to reduce the influence of a first format. The first format is associated with an input voice, and may be corrupted by background noise (see Cho at col. 1, lines 46-51 and 63). However, if the combination of Cho

and Dejaco would motivate a person of ordinary skill in the art to reduce the influence of a first format by **extending** a formant bandwidth, the person would not be motivated to **compress** the formant bandwidth. Thus, there is no motivation to combine Cho and Dejaco.

Further, in the rejection of dependent Claim 3, the Examiner relies on Arslan for disclosing formant bandwidth compression. However, Arslan and the other cited references do not teach or suggest **the recited condition when the formant bandwidth should be compressed** (that is, when the bandwidth of the input CELP format is wider than that of the output CELP format). Rather, Arslan merely mentions the effect of formant bandwidth compression on the target voice spectrum, and the technique for compressing the formant bandwidth. Thus, Arslan and the other cited references do not teach or suggest each of the elements of amended Claim 1.

Analogous discussions apply to independent Claims 8 and 9, which are amended to include similar limitations. For at least these reasons, independent Claims 1, 8 and 9 and their respective dependent claims are non-obvious over the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 8-9 are requested.

B. Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dejaco in view of Cho, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,371,853 issued to Kao et al. (“Kao”).

Kao discloses for disclosing a CELP vocoder. However, Kao does not cure the deficiency of Dejaco and Cho. Claim 6 depends from Claim 1 and incorporates the limitations thereof. Thus, for at least the reasons mentioned above in regard to Claim 1, Claim 6 is non-obvious over the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 6 is requested.

C. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dejaco in view of Cho, as applied to Claim 2, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,615,174 issued to Arslan (“Arslan”). Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dejaco in view of Cho, and in further view of Kao as applied to Claim 6, and further in view of Arslan.

Claim 3 depends from Claim 1 and incorporates the limitations thereof. Thus, for at least the reasons mentioned above in regard to Claim 1, Claim 3 is non-obvious over the cited references.

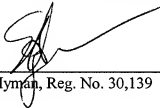
Claim 7 depends from Claim 6, which in turn depends from Claim 1. Thus, for at least the reasons mentioned above in regard to Claim 6, Claim 7 is non-obvious over the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 3 and 7 is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



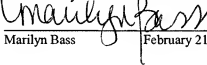
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